

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 16-18 and 20-30 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 4-15 and 19 have been canceled. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Objection to the Title of the Invention

The Office Action has objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. In an attempt to overcome this objection, Applicant has amended the title of the invention to more closely reflect the claimed subject matter.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8, 10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,344,875 to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in view of the fact that claim 19 has been canceled.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claim 19 are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 4, 5, 8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,535,243 to Tullis in view of U.S. Patent 6,005,613 to Endsley et al. ("Endsley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in view of the fact that claims 4, 5, 8 and 10-13 have been canceled.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 4, 5, 8 and 10-13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,535,243 to Tullis in view of U.S. Patent 6,005,613 to Endsley, as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,380,975 to Suzuki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in view of the fact that claims 6, 7 and 14 have been canceled.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 6, 7 and 14 are respectfully requested.

Claims 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,535,243 to Tullis in view of U.S. Patent

6,005,613 to Endsley, as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,380,975 to Suzuki and U.S. Patent 4,888,795 to Ando. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in view of the fact that claim 15 has been canceled.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claim 15 are respectfully requested.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3, 16-18 and 20-20.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert J. Webster (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the

undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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